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ABSTRACT

Spanish explorer Hernan Cortes encountered the Aztecs in 1519 and conquered them in 1521, claiming their empire for Spain. He then destroyed the Aztec capital city of Tenochtitlan and rebuilt a Spanish city in its ruins. In this lesson plan, it is the year 1527 and an Independent Counsel has been chosen by the College of Cardinals of the Catholic Church to determine a policy for the Church toward future exploration, conquest, and conversion of the native people of Mexico. The lesson asks students to represent either the Spanish or the Aztecs, whose cases will be argued to the Special Counsel. The Spanish will want to present arguments supporting the conquest. The Aztecs will want to present arguments objecting to the conquest. Students are provided with background information, detailed instructions, on-line and print resources, and reflection questions. The teacher's notes explain the unit's correlation to history/social science and language arts standards, suggest day-by-day teaching strategies, provide an extensive resource list, and include a model for writing a legal brief. (BT)

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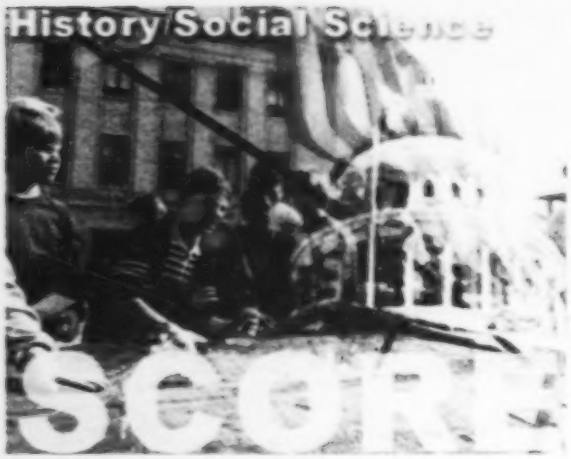

Schools of California Online Resources for Education (SCORE): Connecting California's Classrooms to the World

Aztecs Meet the Spanish

7th Grade Lesson by Gina Otto

SCORE
San Berardino County Superintendent of Schools
601 North E. Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410-3093

http://score.rims.k12.ca.us/activity/aztecs_spanish/

1999

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Margaret Hill

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Teacher notes

Photo from,"http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/HIST/tutor/eurvoya/relex.html"

HERE IT IS

Aztecs Meet the Spanish

Spanish explorer Hernan Cortés encountered the Aztecs in 1519 and conquered them in 1521, claiming their empire for Spain. He then destroyed the Aztecs capital city of Tenochtitlan and rebuilt a Spanish city on its ruins.

It is the year 1527 and an Independent Counsel has been chosen by the College of Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church to determine a policy for the Church toward future exploration, conquest and conversion of the native people of Mexico

You and your partners will represent either the Spanish or the Aztecs. You will be assigned a role and asked to find information and report to the Special Counsel so that he may help to formulate the Church Policy. The Spanish will want to present an argument supporting the conquest. The Aztecs will want to present logical objections to the actions of the Spanish.

Your research and report needs to be done as quickly as possible since another Spanish explorer, Coronado, is planning to search for the legendary "Seven Cities of Gold" and Pizarro is readying an expedition to find another rich Indian culture to conquer. Also, Portugal is planning an expedition to its new land called Brazil and the Church needs to formulate its policy without delay

Photo from, "http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/HIST/tutor/eurvoya/columbus.html"

The Process

As part of the process you will:

1. Keep a daily journal of your research and other activities.
2. Study maps and documents.
3. Look for information to support your objection to, or support of the conquest.
4. Check the opposing sides version.
5. Record the similarities and differences between your view and, that of the opposing side on a venn diagram or other graphic organizer.
6. Answer the questions provided and post them, as a group, on a poster created for that purpose, as mentioned in Step 2, Part 13.
7. Write a 5 paragraph position paper based on your role, in order to help the Counsel decide what Church policy should be.
8. Report to the Independent Counsel in front of the College of Cardinals and Pope where you or your representatives will also be asked to explain how your information may help to change history.

Step 1: Divide the class in half and assign roles as follows:

Aztec Representatives:

- Keeper of the Aztec Historical Archives
- Religious historian
- Priest
- Cultural historian
- Cartographer
- Military leader
- Representative of the former government
- Investigative news reporter(s), member(s) of the legal staff, and an editor. (Optional roles include: horoscope writer(s), cartoonist/artist(s), and sports writer(s))

Spanish Representatives:

- Keeper of the Spanish Historical Archives,
- Religious historian,
- Catholic Priest,
- Cultural historian,
- Cartographer,
- Military leader,
- Representative of Hernando Cortés,
- Representative of King Charles of Spain (also Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire).
- Investigative news reporter(s), member(s) of the legal staff, and an editor. (Optional roles include: horoscope writer(s), cartoonist/artist(s), and sports writer(s).)

Step 2: Assign Jobs as follows:

1. Keepers of the Historical Archives will research information about the history of their people.
2. Religious historians will research the historical information about the religion of their people.
3. Priests will research and describe the ceremonies and beliefs of their people.
4. Cultural historians will research information about the lives of their people (marriage, clothing, food, family).
5. Cartographers will research and recreate maps of their areas with appropriate legends (keys) and dates.
6. Military leaders will research and describe methods of fighting, weapons available, uniforms worn, etc.
7. Representatives of each of the leaders will research their leader, and describe their motivation for the actions taken.
8. Cortés will be allowed his own representative to plead his cause before the Independent Counsel.

9. Investigative reporters will organize and coordinate research, checking both sides.
10. Horoscope writers will use research (calendars, etc.) to organize and write monthly horoscopes for the parties involved.
11. Cartoonists/artists will create drawings of information gained from the research.
12. Sports writers will describe the various sporting activities of their culture.
13. Legal staff members will attempt to organize the information into a legal presentation. (see legal brief form) Before the legal staff members have information to organize, they shall create a large poster with the headings matching the questions to be researched below in Step 5. Each side should have matching posters. As information is obtained, the answers to the questions should be put on the poster

Step 3: First Journal Entry

Everyone will read the October 12 journal entry written by Columbus wherein he describes the appearance of the native people and draws some conclusions based on their behavior. Summarize in your journal the main things Columbus described and his conclusions. Then pretend you are one of the Native Americans seeing Columbus and his crews for the first time. Complete your journal entry by describing the appearance of the Spaniards and make several conclusions based on their behavior.

Step 4: Everyone will need to have the answers to the following questions.

Divide the research topics among the group and, as the information becomes available, write the question and the answer in your journals:

1. What do you know about Christopher Columbus, his four voyages, and motivations for his explorations?
2. Who were "the major players" ?
   a. Spanish Rulers 1470 to 1521? Pope(s).
   b. 1470 to 1521?
   c. Aztecs rulers 1470 to 1521?
3. What occurred in the years 1519 to 1521 on the mainland of Mexico (from the time of Cortés landing to the final conquest of Tenochtitlan)?

Step 5: Assign the following questions according to the assigned roles.

Make sure that all questions are covered and answers explained. Answers will be recorded in the daily journal of the person doing that research and posted on the

poster.

Questions for the Spanish Group

1. Was Spain an empire?
2. Were all Spanish subjects the same?
3. What was Spain or Europe like from 1250 to 1519 and what role did Spain play in the European community? In its history?
4. What was Spanish culture like? (sports, holidays, foods, etc.)
5. What was the Spanish religion like?
6. What was the Spanish Inquisition?
7. What kind of weapons, uniforms, warfare, did the Spanish use?
8. Who ruled and how did they get the job?
9. What did the land look like?
10. What legal or historical right did Cortés have to attack and conquer the Aztecs?
11. What was Cortés motivation?
12. Who authorized his actions?
13. How did the conquest affect the history and people of Spain?

Questions for the Aztec Group

1. Did the Aztecs have an empire?
2. Were all the Aztec subjects of Aztec culture?
3. What was Mexico like from 1250 to 1519 and what role did the Mexica (Aztecs) play in its history?
4. What was the Aztec culture/mythology like? (sports, holidays, foods, etc.)
5. What was the Aztec religion like? Why were there Aztec sacrifices?
6. What kind of weapons, uniforms, warfare did the Aztecs use?
7. Who ruled and how did he get his job?
8. What did land look like?
9. Why did Montezuma invite Cortés to Tenochtitlan? What was his motivation?
10. How did the conquest affect the history and people of the area to be called Mexico?

Questions for Both Groups

1. How different were the Spanish from the Aztecs?
2. If the Aztecs (and other Native Americans) had been able to voice their objection to the activities of the Spanish (Portuguese, French, English, etc.) other than by fighting and losing, how might history have been changed?
3. What information can you give the College of Cardinals and their Independent Counsel in the year 1527? Would your recommendations have changed history?

Task 6: Based on your role, write your 5 paragraph position paper.
(Artists/cartoonists can create their position in art)

Task 7: Organize your information.

As a group, organize your information for your representatives to present before the Special Counsel and the College of Cardinals and the Pope. You may use charts, maps, drawings, cartoons, documents, etc. to present your case.

Task 8: Present your position(s) to the Independent Counsel

Decide if each person will present or your legal advisors will present. Use visuals, your posters and cartoons or drawings to help show your point of view. Stay focused on the issues. Support your side with all the relevant information you have found.

The Photo from, "http://www.public.iastate.edu/~rjsalvad/scmfag/calendar.html"

Learning Advice

Stay organized and on task. Be sure to:

1. Write in your journal every day, recording what you did, what you found, the questions you can answer and what the answers are.
2. Identify the people involved and be sure you understand your role.

3. Have a dictionary on hand so you can look up any word you do not understand in text(s) you are using for research.
4. Have your history-social science textbook in front of you to access maps you cannot find on the Internet or in Atlases.
5. Evaluate your sources for prejudice or bias. Reassign work among members of the research team if necessary.

Evaluation

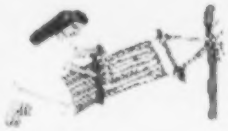
The class will create a rubric for grading this activity. Each individual is responsible for his/her job and based on a 5 point scale, with 5 being the top and 1 being the score for a non-work, will be evaluated by other group members for an individual grade. The presentation before the Independent Counsel will be graded by a student-created rubric which must include evaluation of preparation, validity of argument, amount of research used, use of visuals if available and attention to detail. Appropriateness of behavior during the testimony may also be included as part of the rubric's evaluation. The teacher will be grading the journal entries and five paragraph position papers.

Photo from,"http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/HIST/tutor/eurvoya/maritime.html"

Reflection

The students will reflect on this activity after the presentation and judgment by writing a 1 to 1.5 page essay that answers the following questions:

- Did you feel you had adequate sources and an equal chance to present your case?
- What information did you learn that was the most interesting part of this activity?
- What part of this activity did you find the hardest to do?
- If you were doing this activity again, what would you do differently?
- How would history have changed if the Catholic Church, in 1527, really had decided about future conquests based upon the information you learned in this activity?



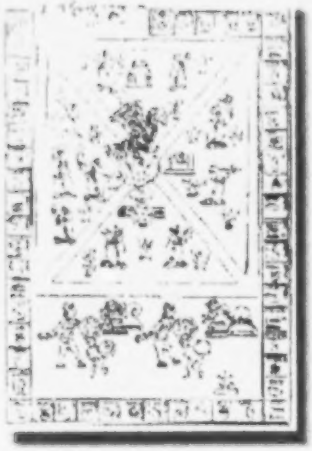
http://www.realtime.net/maya/aztecfldr/aztbase.ht::.l

Conclusion

As times change, the ideas of culture, nationhood, government, conquest, empires, civil rights , legality and differences between people have changed too. Were the indigenous peoples of the New World so different from their European counterparts? Were the empires they created so different? Should similarity or difference make any difference in judging historical events of the late 15th to 17th centuries? Students need to understand that history does not take place in a vacuum and that surrounding events and prevailing attitudes do shape decisions made in context. Could history be changed based upon understandings and information available in our times? We can just imagine....

Materials and Resources

Materials: Access to the Internet, maps, historical atlases, encyclopedias, World History or Latin American History textbooks, paper for journal entries, venn diagrams or graphics, and organizers.



http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/a/m/amr127/percept.htm

Resources: Internet links

1517, a Novel
All about Charles V (Carlos V), Spain, explorers etc.
http://math.bu.edu/people/jeffs/1517.html

All About Spain, History
A short few paragraphs about Spanish History -- scroll down to appropriate spot.
http://www.red2000.com/spain/primer/hist.html

Aztbase
Information on Dentistry, Stars, Codex Rios, maps, War Drum, Teotihaucan
http://www.realtime.net/maya/aztecfldr/aztbase.html

Aztec Calendar
Information on the Calendar
http://www.public.iastate.edu/~rjsalvad/scmfaq/calendar.html

Aztec Calendar
The Aztec Calendar Tells the day by the Aztec Calendar
http://www.xs4all.nl/~voorburg/aztec/

Aztec Mythology
Information about the beliefs of the Aztecs with links to the Maya equivalent
http://www.sneaker.net.au/docs/encyclo/D6.HTM

Aztec/Spanish Encounter
Explains the different points of view when the Aztecs met the Spaniards - cultural misunderstandings
http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/a/m/amr127/percept.htm

Aztecs vs. the Conquistadors
Weapons, fighting tactics, the horse and crossbow. Interesting information about both the Aztecs and the Spanish, done on a page with great pictures of miniature figures. You can even link to a description of a game played with the miniatures Aztecs vs. Conquistadores where the Aztecs almost win.
http://www.netwalk.com/~jkoppe/miniatures/aztecs/aztecscong.html

Book Sources about Aztecs.
A web site with lists of other books about Aztecs for Middle School Students.
http://schools.ci.burbank.ca.us/~luther/aztecs/azbooks/azbooks.html

Bullfight by All About Spain Page
Spanish Culture -- the Bullfight
http://www.red2000.com/spain/toros/index.html

Buried Mirror. Conflict of the Gods.
Short History of what happened from 1519 to 1521
http://www.umich.edu/~proflame/mirror/etext/presco0.html

Mexico 1519-1521
History from 1516 to 1521 - click on chapter you wish to read. For teacher not students.
http://www.umich.edu/~proflame/mirror/etext/presco0.html

Charles V
Quick information about Charles V (Carlos V)
http://wwwdumas.sesc.k12.ar.us/~hispanic/charlesv.htm

European Voyages of Exploration: Religion
From Portugal to Spain, what role did the Church play in the exploration of the new world? Includes information and pictures.
http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/HIST/tutor/eurvoya/relex.html

The Floating Gardens of Mexico
Information about how the Aztecs created Tenochtlitlan and grew food to feed its population on a lake.
http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/mg/schfloa.htm

Historica Totleca Chichimeca
A Codex consisting of 51 folios with text. The pictures are great!! The text is in Spanish. But great example of how history was recorded by the MesoAmericans.
http://www.umich.edu/~proflame/mirror/topics/tol1.html#origins

Inquisition Timeline
Click on 1478 and 1515 for more information
http://es.rice.edu/ES/humsoc/Galileo/Student_Work/Trial96/breu/timeline

Luther Burbank Middle School's Aztec Page
The kids already did your research. Just find their web sites and click away.
http://schools.ci.burbank.ca.us/~luther/aztecs/aztec.html

Medieval Sourcebook -Christopher Columbus - Extracts and readings from Columbus's journal.
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/columbus1.html

Meso-American Calendars
Meso American Calendars with links to Sunstone, Almanac, etc.
http://www.ironhorse.com/~nagual/calendar/

Mexicas
Pre Columbian Mexico-links takes you to calendars, social organization, Quezalcoatl and art and literature.
http://udgftp.cencar.udg.mx/ingles/Precolombina/Azteca/mexicaintro.htm

Mexicas Introduction
A short biography of Cortés and Spain and information about Cortés' authorization to explore, how he conquered the capital and his religious justification.
http://udgftp.cencar.udg.mx/ingles/Precolombina/Azteca/temp6.html

Moctezuma Beholds Comet as Omen from Rooftop
Picture only
http://www.csubak.edu/~gsantos/img0013.html

Moctezuma s Greeting to Hernan Cortes according to a letter from Cortes to Europe.
http://www.humanities.ccny.cuny.edu/history/reader/cortez.htm

Moctezuma
Picture and biography
http://www.users.dircon.co.uk/~nonsuch/dict/glossary/montezu.htm

Nahuatl Net
Nahuatl was the language of the Aztecs. Links to Aztecs, Spanish conquest, History, Social Organization, etc.
http://nahuatl.net/history/index.html

Origins of Mexico
A short history of the valley of Mexico, the culture of the people, about the wars, working class, etc.
http://www.indians.org/welker/origins.htm

Patterns in Early Spanish Overseas Expansion by John E. Kicza, Why land was given to explorers as a reward.
http://www.millersv.edu/~columbus/data/art/KICZA-1.ART

Religious Orders, The Indian, And The Conquest: Fifty Years of Dispute and Contradiction
The feathered and painted beings encountered by the Spaniards confounded the entire Spanish nation, from King to commoner. Who was the Indian? Was he man or beast? Was he a rational being? A short essay about these questions and more.
http://www.millersv.edu/~columbus/data/art/HARO-01.ART

Rite of Human Sacrifice
Aztec beliefs - takes a while to load up but good information and insight.
http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~sjohnson/public_html/students/canion/relgion2.h

Spanish Inquisition's Effect on the Church
The Spanish Inquisition s Effect on the Church by a student
http://www.overlake.org/Student%20Projects/inquisition/Inquisitor.html

Texas Explorers: Cortez
Interesting contemporary letter about Cortez influence on Texas History
http://riceinfo.rice.edu/armadillo/Projects/cortez.html

Books and Magazines:

Burch, Joann J. Isabella of Castile, Queen on Horseback. New York: Franklin Watts, 1991

Carlson, John B. "America's Ancient Skywatchers." National Geographic. March, 1990, pp. 76-132 (Astronomy in Mexico with graphics.)

Crow, John A. Spain, The Root and the Flower. New York: Harper & Row Publishers, 1963

Deagan, Kthlen A. "Europe s First Foothold in the New World." National Geographic, January, 1992, pp. 40-52.

De La Haba, Louis. "Mexico, The City that Founded a Nation." National Geographic. May, 1973, pp. 638-669.

Edwards, David L. Christianity: The First Two Thousand Years. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1997

Johnson, William Weber Cortés. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1975

Kamen, Henry Inquisition and Society in Spain. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985 (They said that they were looking for souls to save from hell...)

Kicza, John E. "Patterns in Early Spanish Overseas Expansion" . The William and Mary Quarterly, April, 1992, pp. 229-253.

Lloyd, Alan. The Spanish Centuries. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, 1968

Lyon, Eugene. "Search for Columbus". National Geographic. January, 1992,. pp. 3-39.

MacDonald, Fiona. How Would You Survive as an Aztec? New York: Franklin Watts, 1995

McDowell, Bart. "The Aztecs", National Geographic. December 1980, pp. 704-752.

Orozco, Cecilio. The Book of the Sun Tonatiuh. Fresno, California: California State University, Fresno, 1992

Moctezuma, Eduardo Matos. "New Finds in the Great Temple", National Geographic. December, 1980, pp. 766-775

Montes, Augusto F. Molina. "The Building of Tenochtitlan", National Geographic. December, 1980, pp. 753-765 (with great foldout map of the Aztec Empire).

Rubin, Nancy Isabella of Castile, The First Renaissance Queen. New York: St. Martin s Press, 1991

Wilkerson, S. Jeffery K. "Following Cortes: Path to Conquest ", National Geographic. October, 1984, pp. 420-459. (The route to Mexico City from Vera Cruz with pictures!)

Picture from,"http://www.users.dircon.co.uk/~nonsuch/dict/glossary/montezu.htm"

Teacher notes:

Historical and Social Sciences Analysis Skills: Grade 6- 8

- Students will use a variety of maps and documents to identify physical and cultural features of neighborhoods, cities, states, and countries, and to explain the historical migration of people, expansion and disintegration of empires, and the growth of economic systems.
- Students detect the different historical points of view on historical events and determine the context in which the historical statements were made (the question asked, sources used, authors perspective.)

History/ Social Science Standards: Grade 7

- Students analyze the Mesoamerican civilizations in terms of how and where each empire arose and how aztec and Inca empires were defeated by the Spanish.
- Students analyse the historical developments of the reformation in terms of

the institution and impact of missionaries on Christianity and the diffusion of Christianity from Europe to other parts of the world.

Language Arts Content Standards: Grade 7

- Students identify and trace the development of an author's argument, point of view, or perspective in text.
- Students assess the adequacy, accuracy, and appropriateness of the author's evidence to support claims and assertions, noting instances of bias and stereotyping.
- Students deliver research presentations that convey clear and accurate perspectives on the subject.
- Students deliver persuasive presentations that describe the points in support of the proposition, employing well-articulated evidence.
-

Length:

Research and group activities may take about 300-400 minutes depending on the number of computers connected to the internet. One computer classrooms make take longer unless you have WebWhacker or WebBuddy, or the teacher downloads and copies the web pages in advance of the lesson.

Testimony/presentations should take one class period and be limited to 5 or 10 minutes for each representative or group.

Suggestions:

- Reprint the questions to keep the students on task
- Check the journals periodically to make sure everyone is working
- Invite the principal and assistant principals, and or parents to be members of the College of Cardinals.
- Help the groups, if asked, by insisting they find out what the competition's argument is.
- Tape the presentations on video to replay.

Resources for Teacher:

See resources and bibliography above and quotes below.

1. What Columbus Did:

Paraphrased from Rubin, Nancy Isabella of Castile, The First Renaissance Queen. New York: St. Martin s Press, 1991

"When Columbus returned from his first trip, he brought with him Indians who were paraded around Barcelona and subsequently converted to Christianity. Several of them were sent to missionary school to learn how to convert their brethren on Columbus' next trip. Columbus was made Admiral of the Ocean Sea and was to be known as Don Cristobal Colon with a coat of arms. Eight days later he was made Capitan General de la Armada or Capitan General of the Fleet and given the right to start a second expedition whose primary goal was to convert the Indians. To carry out that task, twelve priests were named to the expedition, among them young Bartolome de Las Casas". p. 332

"The conversions, Isabella and Ferdinand warned Columbus, had to be accomplished with gentleness and not by force. Columbus was to treat the said Indians very well and lovingly and to abstain from doing them any injury, arranging that both peoples hold much conversation... each serving the others to the best of their ability....and if any person ... should maltreat the said Indians in any manner whatsoever, the said Admiral, as Viceroy and Governor of Their Highnesses, is to punish them severely.,..." p. 332 quoted from Parry, John H. and Keith,Robert G. eds., New Iberian World: A Documentary History of the Discovery and Settlement of Latin America to the Early Seventeenth Century, vol. 2, The Caribbean New York: Times Books, 1984) p. 72

2. What the Church Did after 1527:- Quotes from Edwards, David L. Christianity, The First Two Thousand Years. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1997

The farmers in this region had cultivated maize, the potato, cocoa, tobacco and rubber, wealth unknown in other continents.

"They said that they were looking for souls to save from hell, ... sheer bewilderment seems to have been caused by these men with strange skins, arriving in strange ships, riding on strange horses and firing from strange guns. Even the aristocrats who had governed the Aztec and Inca civilizations were at a loss. They were told that the strangers wanted large quantities of gold,...they could not understand why gold coins were so urgently needed in Europe. They saw that the invaders carried the apparatus of their religion with them, but they could not understand what the religion was; said to be about God's love, it was communicated by atrocities..." p. 512

"The native population, which may have been as large as seventy million, perished to about 3.5 million. They were massacred. They died after exposure to European diseases such as smallpox. They died from overwork as conscripts in unfamiliar tasks such as mining. They died in despair after the ruin of their ancient culture, imperial or tribal; their traditional places of worship were destroyed and the townships into which many of them were herded were called doctrinas, for there Catholic doctrine could be taught and it included the teaching of submission. This was under the system of the *encomienda* which in theory insisted that the white

settlers should take good care of the Indians allocated to them, including their Christian instruction....The system worked out so differently from the ideal of trusteeship that the authorities tried to end it, but in practice the harsh relationship of master with semi-slave remained....The captives were usually baptized before being sent on their terrible voyage, but slaveholders were nervous about the consequences should they become Christian in any real sense". p. 513

Within a hundred years of the start of the invasion...baroque churches were often prominent in their central sites and lavish in their visual aids to devotion. There were many houses of religious orders and institutions of education and charity. The Indians were subject to discipline: priests could summon them to confess their sins and pay tithes by using the government's roll of taxpayers; and the penalty for disobedience could be a flogging and then excommunication....p. 513

The militant culture of Spain and Portugal had been shaped by three long wars against the Moors, so that the most admired virtue was courage; and now courage had conquered a whole continent rapidly. The religion which supported the society was Catholicism, the higher clergy being well endowed...kept quiet by being placed completely under the Crown's control. In the new world this control was even stricter than in Europe, so that the Pope had virtually no jurisdiction....and in the colonies in Spain or Portugal the ruling class consisted of government officials or landlords who were always ready to suppress a revolt but otherwise lived with such flamboyance as was possible....A masculine authoritarianism in which ranking was achieved by numbering servants and clients, spending was far more important than investment and life was good for the strong man. p. 514

3. About Cortés:

From Lloyd, Alan. The Spanish Centuries. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, 1968

Hernando Cortes...was mortal and scarcely the personification of scholarship. The son of a former infantry captain and a mother of noble connections, Cortes had spent his childhood at Medellîn... He was rowdy and troublesome, determined on a career of action and adventure. He went to the Indies in 1504 and served Velasquez. He had troubles with the ladies and angered Velasquez, but in 1519 Velasquez named Cortes to raise an expedition to the Yucatan. p. 128

Cortes... believed devoutly...in his evangelical mission. A law unto himself once free of Cuba and Velasquez, recognizing no earthly master save Charles the emperor, he saw God...as his ally....He made it clear that in destroying idolatry and bringing Christianity to the Indians, we shall not only be winning eternal glory for our souls but also ensuring the assistance of God in our worldly endeavors. p. 129

A vital difference between Cortes and Moctezuma, as it turned out, was that while

the Aztec declined to presume the favor of his Gods, the Spaniard had no doubt that his own was fundamentally on the right side.

Cortes landed on the island of Cozumel, then proceeded to the Yucatan, then to Tabasco in the Gulf of Campeche and the first skirmish with the Indians. The Tabascans armed with bows, spears and lances, wore feathered headdresses and quilted jackets thick enough to turn an arrow, but they were no match for Spanish guns and cannons, which like the horses, amazed them. It was here he heard of Quetzalcoatl. p. 132

4. About Mexico

From Johnson, William Weber Cortés. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1975

Teotihuacan, with its gigantic pyramids had flourished between the second century and AD 750. It had lapsed into desolation and solitude. The Toltec civilization of Tula or Tollan, had risen as that of Teotihuacan had collapsed. By AD 1200 it had also begun to decline.

One of the reasons for its decline was the number of comparatively uncivilized people who drifted in from the north and west, much as the Germanic hordes had descended on Rome. There were at least seven and as much as eleven tribes of these migrant peoples who were to assume power in central Mexico. One of the latest to come was the Aztecs, the people of Aztlan, or the Place of the Herons. p. 46

The principal reason for the Aztecs astonishing growth from marginal nomadism to imperial might was their military skill and their insatiable appetite for conquest. (They first had been forced into other people's wars, and as hired soldiers demonstrated courage and ruthlessness.) They began conquests of their own or made alliances with those they could not conquer. They chose their king from a neighboring and longer-established city Culhuacan who created the royal family. sharp distinctions were made between royalty, the nobility, ordinary folk and the slaves. One of the results was an elevation in the importance of Huitzilopochtli, who came to be recognized as the god of war, the god of the sun and almost everything else. p. 48

Moctezuma II was a brooding and meditating man, swayed by what he interpreted as omens. He felt Quetzalcoatl and his followers abhorred human sacrifice. Quail yes. Snakes, yes. Small animals, yes -- but humans, no. This attitude put him in conflict with the principle deity of the Toltecs. p. 53

Extract from Columbus Journal 1492

Medieval Sourcebook -Christopher Columbus: He wrote about native people of the Carribean islands.

http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/columbus1.html

"As I saw that they were very friendly to us, and perceived that they could be much more easily converted to our holy faith by gentle means than by force, I presented them with some red caps, and strings of beads to wear upon the neck, and many other trifles of small value, wherewith they were much delighted, and became wonderfully attached to us. Afterwards they came swimming to the boats, bringing parrots, balls of cotton thread, javelins, and many other things which they exchanged for articles we gave them, such as glass beads, and hawk's bells; which trade was carried on with the utmost good will. But they seemed on the whole to me, to be a very poor people. They all go completely naked, even the women, though I saw but one girl. All whom I saw were young, not above thirty years of age, well made, with fine shapes and faces; their hair short, and coarse like that of a horse's tail, combed toward the forehead, except a small portion which they suffer to hang down behind, and never cut. Some paint themselves with black, which makes them appear like those of the Canaries, neither black nor white; others with white, others with red, and others with such colors as they can find. Some paint the face, and some the whole body; others only the eyes, and others the nose. Weapons they have none, nor are acquainted with them, for I showed them swords which they grasped by the blades, and cut themselves through ignorance. They have no iron, their javelins being without it, and nothing more than sticks, though some have fish-bones or other things at the ends. They are all of a good size and stature, and handsomely formed. I saw some with scars of wounds upon their bodies, and demanded by signs the cause of them; they answered me in the same way, that there came people from the other islands in the neighborhood who endeavored to make prisoners of them, and they defended themselves. I thought then, and still believe, that these were from the continent. It appears to me, that the people are ingenious, and would be good servants and I am of opinion that they would very readily become Christians, as they appear to have no religion. They very quickly learn such words as are spoken to them. If it please our Lord, I intend at my return to carry home six of them to your Highnesses, that they may learn our language. I saw no beasts in the island, nor any sort of animals except parrots."

Saturday, 13 October. "At daybreak great multitudes of men came to the shore, all young and of fine shapes, very handsome; their hair not curled but straight and coarse like horse-hair, and all with foreheads and heads much broader than any people I had hitherto seen; their eyes were large and very beautiful; they were not black, but the color of the inhabitants of the Canaries, which is a very natural circumstance, they being in the same latitude with the island of Ferro in the Canaries. They were straight-limbed without exception, and not with prominent bellies but handsomely shaped. They came to the ship in canoes, made of a single trunk of a tree, wrought in a wonderful manner considering the country; some of them large enough to contain forty or forty-five men, others of different sizes down to those fitted to hold but a single person. They rowed with an oar like a baker's peel, and wonderfully swift. If they happen to upset, they all jump into the sea, and swim till they have righted their canoe and emptied it with the calabashes they carry

with them. They came loaded with balls of cotton, parrots, javelins, and other things too numerous to mention; these they exchanged for whatever we chose to give them. I was very attentive to them, and strove to learn if they had any gold. Seeing some of them with little bits of this metal hanging at their noses, I gathered from them by signs that by going southward or steering round the island in that direction, there would be found a king who possessed large vessels of gold, and in great quantities. I endeavored to procure them to lead the way thither, but found they were unacquainted with the route. The natives are an inoffensive people, and so desirous to possess any thing they saw with us, that they kept swimming off to the ships with whatever they could find, and readily bartered for any article we saw fit to give them in return, even such as broken platters and fragments of glass. I saw in this manner sixteen balls of cotton thread which weighed above twenty-five pounds, given for three Portuguese ceutis. This traffic I forbade, and suffered no one to take their cotton from them, unless I should order it to be procured for your Highnesses, if proper quantities could be met with. It grows in this island, but from my short stay here I could not satisfy myself fully concerning it; the gold, also, which they wear in their noses, is found here, but not to lose time, I am determined to proceed onward and ascertain whether I can reach Cipango. At night they all went on shore with their canoes."

Sunday, 14 October. " In the morning, I ordered the boats to be got ready, and coasted along the island toward the north- northeast to examine that part of it, we having landed first at the eastern part. Presently we discovered two or three villages, and the people all came down to the shore, calling out to us, and giving thanks to God. Some brought us water, and others victuals: others seeing that I was not disposed to land, plunged into the sea and swam out to us, and we perceived that they interrogated us if we had come from heaven. An old man came on board my boat; the others, both men and women cried with loud voices--"Come and see the men who have come from heavens. Bring them victuals and drink." There came many of both sexes, every one bringing something, giving thanks to God, prostrating themselves on the earth, and lifting up their hands to heaven. They called out to us loudly to come to land, but I was apprehensive on account of a reef of rocks, which surrounds the whole island, although within there is depth of water and room sufficient for all the ships of Christendom, with a very narrow entrance. There are some shoals inside, but the water is as smooth as a pond. It was to view these parts that I set out in the morning, for I wished to give a complete relation to your Highnesses, as also to find where a fort might be built. I discovered a tongue of land which appeared like an island though it was not, but might be cut through and made so in two days; it contained six houses. I do not, however, see the necessity of fortifying the place, as the people here are simple in war-like matters, as your Highnesses will see by those seven which I have ordered to be taken and carried to Spain in order to learn our language and return, unless your Highnesses should choose to have them all transported to Castile, or held captive in the island. I could conquer the whole of them with fifty men, and govern them as I pleased. After having taken a survey of these parts, I returned to the ship, and setting sail, discovered such a number of islands that I knew not which first to visit;

the natives whom I had taken on board informed me by signs that there were so many of them that they could not be numbered; they are all very level, without mountains, exceedingly fertile and populous, the inhabitants living at war with one another, although a simple race, and with delicate bodies.

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Last Revised Nov 24, 1999

WRITE YOUR LEGAL BRIEF!!

First, Prepare a Word Processing Document - Give it a name.

Second, Organize The Product. Your written product will be a multiple paragraph paper. It has four sections. The length of each section may vary, so some sections may be more than one paragraph. Prepare your document so that it has section headings. The four sections of your document, Legal Brief, are:

PART I: A summary of the issue. (Include answers to the questions: Who, What, When, Why and Where about the issue.)

PART II: A summary of the laws that pertain to the issue.

PART III: The summary of the claimants and their viewpoint.
(Describe who each of the groups are by giving a brief background about the group, and then tell why they think they have a claim. This section should be several paragraphs long.)

PART IV: Your legal decision. (Explain your decision. Tell which group has the right to ownership, and why each of the other groups does not get the rights. This section may be a few paragraphs long.)

The Six Traits of Writing you need to think about using in your work.

Follow the Writing Process
Brainstorm
Rough Draft
Edit
Final Draft
http://www.bham.wednet.edu/online/kwick/bones7.htm

Presentation

It is time to present your decision to your class! Here are some ways your teacher may ask you to present your work or they may have an idea of their own. In fact, you may have an idea of your own.

- Some criteria for presenting your work.
- Do not read your brief to the class.
- Give your decisions with thoughtful reasons.
- Involve a group of classmates in your presentation.
- Summarize your work and focus on the part(s) that will most interest a listening audience of fellow seventh graders.

Some Ideas For The Presentation http://www.bham.wednet.edu/online/kwick/bones8.htm

Divide into groups of 4 - 6. Each group will be a jury. Each student will read their legal brief to their group.

After hearing the opinions of all group members, the group must come to a unanimous decision regarding the ownership and share that decision with the class and give the reasons why. Invite a guest from the legal field, such as a judge or lawyer, to hear your presentation. Before the guest arrives, divide the class into three groups. One group for each claimant group; the Spanish, the Aztecs, and the Church. Each group will compile reasons why they have claim why the others do not. Then organize the information into a statement decision that is well supported. After that, each group will select at least one group member to make the presentation to the class and the legal professional.

Finally, ask the legal professional to then write a decision based on the presentations and the facts presented that will be sent to the class.

Back to Aztecs Meet the Spanish

Medieval Sourcebook: Christopher Columbus: Extracts from Journal

This document is the from the journal of Columbus in his voyage of 1492. The meaning of this voyage is highly contested. On the one hand, it is witness to the tremendous vitality and verve of late medieval and early modern Europe - which was on the verge of acquiring a world hegemony. On the other hand, the direct result of this and later voyages was the virtual extermination, by ill-treatment and disease, of the vast majority of the Native inhabitants, and the enormous growth of the transatlantic slave trade. It might not be fair to lay the blame at Columbus' feet, but since all sides treat him as a symbol, such questions cannot be avoided.

IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Whereas, Most Christian, High, Excellent, and Powerful Princes, King and Queen of Spain and of the Islands of the Sea, our Sovereigns, this present year 1492, after your Highnesses had terminated the war with the Moors reigning in Europe, the same having been brought to an end in the great city of Granada, where on the second day of January, this present year, I saw the royal banners of your Highnesses planted by force of arms upon the towers of the Alhambra, which is the fortress of that city, and saw the Moorish king come out at the gate of the city and kiss the hands of your Highnesses, and of the Prince my Sovereign; and in the present month, in consequence of the information which I had given your Highnesses respecting the countries of India and of a Prince, called Great Can, which in our language signifies King of Kings, how, at many times he, and his predecessors had sent to Rome soliciting instructors who might teach him our holy faith, and the holy Father had never granted his request, whereby great numbers of people were lost, believing in idolatry and doctrines of perdition. Your Highnesses, as Catholic Christians, and princes who love and promote the holy Christian faith, and are enemies of the doctrine of Mahomet, and of all idolatry and heresy, determined to send me, Christopher Columbus, to the above-mentioned countries of India, to see the said princes, people, and territories, and to learn their disposition and the proper method of converting them to our holy faith; and furthermore directed that I should not proceed by land to the East, as is customary, but by a Westerly route, in which direction we have hitherto no certain evidence that any one has gone. So after having expelled the Jews from your dominions, your Highnesses, in the same month of January, ordered me to proceed with a sufficient armament to the said regions of India, and for that purpose granted me great favors, and ennobled me that thenceforth I might call myself Don, and be High Admiral of the Sea, and perpetual Viceroy and Governor in all the islands and continents which I might discover and acquire, or which may hereafter be discovered and acquired in the ocean; and that this dignity should be inherited by my eldest

son, and thus descend from degree to degree forever. Hereupon I left the city of Granada, on Saturday, the twelfth day of May, 1492, and proceeded to Palos, a seaport, where I armed three vessels, very fit for such an enterprise, and having provided myself with abundance of stores and seamen, I set sail from the port, on Friday, the third of August, half an hour before sunrise, and steered for the Canary Islands of your Highnesses which are in the said ocean, thence to take my departure and proceed till I arrived at the Indies, and perform the embassy of your Highnesses to the Princes there, and discharge the orders given me. For this purpose I determined to keep an account of the voyage, and to write down punctually every thing we performed or saw from day to day, as will hereafter appear. Moreover, Sovereign Princes, besides describing every night the occurrences of the day, and every day those of the preceding night, I intend to draw up a nautical chart, which shall contain the several parts of the ocean and land in their proper situations; and also to compose a book to represent the whole by picture with latitudes and longitudes, on all which accounts it behooves me to abstain from my sleep, and make many trials in navigation, which things will demand much labor.

Friday, 3 August 1492. Set sail from the bar of Saltes at 8 o'clock, and proceeded with a strong breeze till sunset, sixty miles or fifteen leagues south, afterwards southwest and south by west, which is the direction of the Canaries.

* * * * *

Monday, 6 August. The rudder of the caravel Pinta became loose, being broken or unshipped. It was believed that this happened by the contrivance of Gomez Rascon and Christopher Quintero, who were on board the caravel, because they disliked the voyage. The Admiral says he had found them in an unfavorable disposition before setting out. He was in much anxiety at not being able to afford any assistance in this case, but says that it somewhat quieted his apprehensions to know that Martin Alonzo Pinzon, Captain of the Pinta, was a man of courage and capacity. Made a progress, day and night, of twenty-nine leagues.

* * * * *

Thursday, 9 August. The Admiral did not succeed in reaching the island of Gomera till Sunday night. Martin Alonzo remained at Grand Canary by command of the Admiral, he being unable to keep the other vessels company. The Admiral afterwards returned to Grand Canary, and there with much labor repaired the Pinta, being assisted by Martin Alonzo and the others; finally they sailed to Gomera. They saw a great eruption of names from the Peak of Teneriffe, a lofty mountain. The Pinta, which before had carried latine sails, they altered and made her square-rigged. Returned to Gomera, Sunday, 2 September, with the Pinta repaired.

The Admiral says that he was assured by many respectable Spaniards, inhabitants of the island of Ferro, who were at Gomera with Dona Inez Peraza, mother of Guillen Peraza, afterwards first Count of Gomera, that every year they saw land to the west of the Canaries; and others of Gomera affirmed the same with the like assurances. The Admiral here says

that he remembers, while he was in Portugal, in 1484, there came a person to the King from the island of Madeira, soliciting for a vessel to go in quest of land, which he affirmed he saw every year, and always of the same appearance. He also says that he remembers the same was said by the inhabitants of the Azores and described as in a similar direction, and of the same shape and size. Having taken in food, water, meat and other provisions, which had been provided by the men which he left ashore on departing for Grand Canary to repair the Pinta, the Admiral took his final departure from Gomera with the three vessels on Thursday, 6 September.

* * * * *

Sunday, 9 September. Sailed this day nineteen leagues, and determined to count less than the true number, that the crew might not be dismayed if the voyage should prove long. In the night sailed one hundred and twenty miles, at the rate of ten miles an hour, which make thirty leagues. The sailors steered badly, causing the vessels to fall to leeward toward the northeast, for which the Admiral reprimanded them repeatedly.

Monday, 10 September. This day and night sailed sixty leagues, at the rate of ten miles an hour, which are two leagues and a half. Reckoned only forty-eight leagues, that the men might not be terrified if they should be long upon the voyage.

Tuesday, 11 September. Steered their course west and sailed above twenty leagues; saw a large fragment of the mast of a vessel, apparently of a hundred and twenty tons, but could not pick it up. In the night sailed about twenty leagues, and reckoned only sixteen, for the cause above stated.

* * * * *

Friday, 14 September. Steered this day and night west twenty leagues; reckoned somewhat less. The crew of the Nina stated that they had seen a grajao, and a tropic bird, or water-wagtail, which birds never go farther than twenty-five leagues from the land.

* * * * *

Sunday, 16 September. Sailed day and night, west thirty-nine leagues, and reckoned only thirty-six. Some clouds arose and it drizzled. The Admiral here says that from this time they experienced very pleasant weather, and that the mornings were most delightful, wanting nothing but the melody of the nightingales. He compares the weather to that of Andalusia in April. Here they began to meet with large patches of weeds very green, and which appeared to have been recently washed away from the land; on which account they all judged themselves to be near some island, though not a continent, according to the opinion of the Admiral, who says, "the continent we shall find further ahead."

Monday, 17 September. Steered west and sailed, day and night, above fifty leagues; wrote down only forty-seven; the current favored them. They saw a great deal of weed which proved to be rockweed, it came from the west and they met with it very frequently. They

were of opinion that land was near. The pilots took the sun's amplitude, and found that the needles varied to the northwest a whole point of the compass; the seamen were terrified, and dismayed without saying why. The Admiral discovered the cause, and ordered them to take the amplitude again the next morning, when they found that the needles were true; the cause was that the star moved from its place, while the needles remained stationary. At dawn they saw many more weeds, apparently river weeds, and among them a live crab, which the Admiral kept, and says that these are sure signs of land, being never found eighty leagues out at sea. They found the sea-water less salt since they left the Canaries, and the air more mild. They were all very cheerful, and strove which vessel should outsail the others, and be the first to discover land; they saw many tunnies, and the crew of the Nina killed one. The Admiral here says that these signs were from the west, "where I hope that high God in whose hand is all victory will speedily direct us to land." This morning he says he saw a white bird called a water- wagtail, or tropic bird, which does not sleep at sea.

* * * * *

19 September. Continued on, and sailed, day and night, twenty- five leagues, experiencing a calm. Wrote down twenty-two. This day at ten o'clock a pelican came on board, and in the evening another; these birds are not accustomed to go twenty leagues from land. It drizzled without wind, which is a sure sign of land. The Admiral was unwilling to remain here, beating about in search of land, but he held it for certain that there were islands to the north and south, which in fact was the case and he was sailing in the midst of them. His wish was to proceed on to the Indies, having such fair weather, for if it please God, as the Admiral says, we shall examine these parts upon our return. Here the pilots found their places upon the chart: the reckoning of the Nina made her four hundred and forty leagues distant from the Canaries, that of the Pinta four hundred and twenty, that of the Admiral four hundred.

Thursday, 20 September. Steered west by north, varying with alternate changes of the wind and calms; made seven or eight leagues' progress. Two pelicans came on board, and afterwards another,--a sign of the neighborhood of land. Saw large quantities of weeds today, though none was observed yesterday. Caught a bird similar to a grajao; it was a river and not a marine bird, with feet like those of a gull. Towards night two or three land birds came to the ship, singing; they disappeared before sunrise. Afterwards saw a pelican coming from west- northwest and flying to the southwest; an evidence of land to the westward, as these birds sleep on shore, and go to sea in the morning in search of food, never proceeding twenty leagues from the land.

Friday, 21 September. Most of the day calm, afterwards a little wind. Steered their course day and night, sailing less than thirteen leagues. In the morning found such abundance of weeds that the ocean seemed to be covered with them; they came from the west. Saw a pelican; the sea smooth as a river, and the finest air in the world. Saw a whale, an indication of land, as they always keep near the coast.

Saturday, 22 September. Steered about west-northwest varying their course, and making thirty leagues' progress. Saw few weeds. Some pardelas were seen, and another bird. The Admiral here says "this headwind was very necessary to me, for my crew had grown much

alarmed, dreading that they never should meet in these seas with a fair wind to return to Spain." Part of the day saw no weeds, afterwards great plenty of it.

Sunday, 23 September. Sailed northwest and northwest by north and at times west nearly twenty-two leagues. Saw a turtle dove, a pelican, a river bird, and other white fowl;--weeds in abundance with crabs among them. The sea being smooth and tranquil, the sailors murmured, saying that they had got into smooth water, where it would never blow to carry them back to Spain; but afterwards the sea rose without wind, which astonished them. The Admiral says on this occasion "the rising of the sea was very favorable to me, as it happened formerly to Moses when he led the Jews from Egypt."

* * * * *

Tuesday, 25 September. Very calm this day; afterwards the wind rose. Continued their course west till night. The Admiral held a conversation with Martin Alonzo Pinzon, captain of the Pinta, respecting a chart which the Admiral had sent him three days before, in which it appears he had marked down certain islands in that sea; Martin Alonzo was of opinion that they were in their neighborhood, and the Admiral replied that he thought the same, but as they had not met with them, it must have been owing to the currents which had carried them to the northeast and that they had not made such progress as the pilots stated. The Admiral directed him to return the chart, when he traced their course upon it in presence of the pilot and sailors.

At sunset Martin Alonzo called out with great joy from his vessel that he saw land, and demanded of the Admiral a reward for his intelligence. The Admiral says, when he heard him declare this, he fell on his knees and returned thanks to God, and Martin Alonzo with his crew repeated Gloria in excelsis Deo, as did the crew of the Admiral. Those on board the Nina ascended the rigging, and all declared they saw land. The Admiral also thought it was land, and about twenty-five leagues distant. They remained all night repeating these affirmations, and the Admiral ordered their course to be shifted from west to southwest where the land appeared to lie. They sailed that day four leagues and a half west and in the night seventeen leagues southwest, in all twenty-one and a half: told the crew thirteen leagues, making it a point to keep them from knowing how far they had sailed; in this manner two reckonings were kept, the shorter one falsified, and the other being the true account. The sea was very smooth and many of the sailors went in it to bathe, saw many dories and other fish.

Wednesday, 26 September. Continued their course west till the afternoon, then southwest and discovered that what they had taken for land was nothing but clouds. Sailed, day and night, thirty- one leagues; reckoned to the crew twenty-four. The sea was like a river, the air soft and mild.

* * * * *

Sunday, 30 September. Continued their course west and sailed day and night in calms, fourteen leagues; reckoned eleven.--Four tropic birds came to the ship, which is a very clear

sign of land, for so many birds of one sort together show that they are not straying about, having lost themselves. Twice, saw two pelicans; many weeds. The constellation called Las Gallardias, which at evening appeared in a westerly direction, was seen in the northeast the next morning, making no more progress in a night of nine hours, this was the case every night, as says the Admiral. At night the needles varied a point towards the northwest, in the morning they were true, by which it appears that the polar star moves, like the others, and the needles are always right.

Monday, 1 October. Continued their course west and sailed twenty-five leagues; reckoned to the crew twenty. Experienced a heavy shower. The pilot of the Admiral began to fear this morning that they were five hundred and seventy-eight leagues west of the island of Ferro. The short reckoning which the Admiral showed his crew gave five hundred and eighty-four, but the true one which he kept to himself was seven hundred and seven leagues.

* * * * *

Saturday, 6 October. Continued their course west and sailed forty leagues day and night; reckoned to the crew thirty-three. This night Martin Alonzo gave it as his opinion that they had better steer from west to southwest. The Admiral thought from this that Martin Alonzo did not wish to proceed onward to Cipango; but he considered it best to keep on his course, as he should probably reach the land sooner in that direction, preferring to visit the continent first, and then the islands.

Sunday, 7 October. Continued their course west and sailed twelve miles an hour, for two hours, then eight miles an hour. Sailed till an hour after sunrise, twenty-three leagues; reckoned to the crew eighteen. At sunrise the caravel Nina, who kept ahead on account of her swiftness in sailing, while all the vessels were striving to outsail one another, and gain the reward promised by the King and Queen by first discovering land--hoisted a flag at her mast head, and fired a lombarda, as a signal that she had discovered land, for the Admiral had given orders to that effect. He had also ordered that the ships should keep in close company at sunrise and sunset, as the air was more favorable at those times for seeing at a distance. Towards evening seeing nothing of the land which the Nina had made signals for, and observing large flocks of birds coming from the North and making for the southwest, whereby it was rendered probable that they were either going to land to pass the night, or abandoning the countries of the north, on account of the approaching winter, he determined to alter his course, knowing also that the Portuguese had discovered most of the islands they possessed by attending to the flight of birds. The Admiral accordingly shifted his course from west to west-southwest, with a resolution to continue two days ill that direction. This was done about an hour after sunset. Sailed in the night nearly five leagues, and twenty-three in the day. In all twenty-eight.

8 October. Steered west-southwest and sailed day and night eleven or twelve leagues; at times during the night, fifteen miles an hour, if the account can be depended upon. Found the sea like the river at Seville, "thanks to God," says the Admiral. The air soft as that of Seville in April, and so fragrant that it was delicious to breathe it. The weeds appeared very fresh. Many land birds, one of which they took, flying towards the southwest; also grajaos,

ducks, and a pelican were seen.

Tuesday, 9 October. Sailed southwest five leagues, when the wind changed, and they stood west by north four leagues. Sailed in the whole day and night, twenty leagues and a half; reckoned to the crew seventeen. All night heard birds passing.

Wednesday, 10 October. Steered west-southwest and sailed at times ten miles an hour, at others twelve, and at others, seven; day and night made fifty-nine leagues' progress; reckoned to the crew but forty-four. Here the men lost all patience, and complained of the length of the voyage, but the Admiral encouraged them in the best manner he could, representing the profits they were about to acquire, and adding that it was to no purpose to complain, having come so far, they had nothing to do but continue on to the Indies, till with the help of our Lord, they should arrive there.

Thursday, 11 October. Steered west-southwest; and encountered a heavier sea than they had met with before in the whole voyage. Saw pardelas and a green rush near the vessel. The crew of the Pinta saw a cane and a log; they also picked up a stick which appeared to have been carved with an iron tool, a piece of cane, a plant which grows on land, and a board. The crew of the Nina saw other signs of land, and a stalk loaded with rose berries. These signs encouraged them, and they all grew cheerful. Sailed this day till sunset, twenty-seven leagues.

After sunset steered their original course west and sailed twelve miles an hour till two hours after midnight, going ninety miles, which are twenty-two leagues and a half; and as the Pinta was the swiftest sailer, and kept ahead of the Admiral, she discovered land and made the signals which had been ordered. The land was first seen by a sailor called Rodrigo de Triana, although the Admiral at ten o'clock that evening standing on the quarter-deck saw a light, but so small a body that he could not affirm it to be land; calling to Pero Gutierrez, groom of the King's wardrobe, he told him he saw a light, and bid him look that way, which he did and saw it; he did the same to Rodrigo Sanchez of Segovia, whom the King and Queen had sent with the squadron as comptroller, but he was unable to see it from his situation. The Admiral again perceived it once or twice, appearing like the light of a wax candle moving up and down, which some thought an indication of land. But the Admiral held it for certain that land was near; for which reason, after they had said the Salve which the seamen are accustomed to repeat and chant after their fashion, the Admiral directed them to keep a strict watch upon the forecastle and look out diligently for land, and to him who should first discover it he promised a silken jacket, besides the reward which the King and Queen had offered, which was an annuity of ten thousand maravedis. At two o'clock in the morning the land was discovered, at two leagues' distance; they took in sail and remained under the square-sail lying to till day, which was Friday, when they found themselves near a small island, one of the Lucayos, called in the Indian language Guanahani. Presently they descried people, naked, and the Admiral landed in the boat, which was armed, along with Martin Alonzo Pinzon, and Vincent Yanez his brother, captain of the Nina. The Admiral bore the royal standard, and the two captains each a banner of the Green Cross, which all the ships had carried; this contained the initials of the names of the King and Queen each side of the cross, and a crown over each letter Arrived

on shore, they saw trees very green many streams of water, and diverse sorts of fruits. The Admiral called upon the two Captains, and the rest of the crew who landed, as also to Rodrigo de Escovedo notary of the fleet, and Rodrigo Sanchez, of Segovia, to bear witness that he before all others took possession (as in fact he did) of that island for the King and Queen his sovereigns, making the requisite declarations, which are more at large set down here in writing. Numbers of the people of the island straightway collected together. Here follow the precise words of the Admiral: "As I saw that they were very friendly to us, and perceived that they could be much more easily converted to our holy faith by gentle means than by force, I presented them with some red caps, and strings of beads to wear upon the neck, and many other trifles of small value, wherewith they were much delighted, and became wonderfully attached to us. Afterwards they came swimming to the boats, bringing parrots, balls of cotton thread, javelins, and many other things which they exchanged for articles we gave them, such as glass beads, and hawk's bells; which trade was carried on with the utmost good will. But they seemed on the whole to me, to be a very poor people. They all go completely naked, even the women, though I saw but one girl. All whom I saw were young, not above thirty years of age, well made, with fine shapes and faces; their hair short, and coarse like that of a horse's tail, combed toward the forehead, except a small portion which they suffer to hang down behind, and never cut. Some paint themselves with black, which makes them appear like those of the Canaries, neither black nor white; others with white, others with red, and others with such colors as they can find. Some paint the face, and some the whole body; others only the eyes, and others the nose. Weapons they have none, nor are acquainted with them, for I showed them swords which they grasped by the blades, and cut themselves through ignorance. They have no iron, their javelins being without it, and nothing more than sticks, though some have fish-bones or other things at the ends. They are all of a good size and stature, and handsomely formed. I saw some with scars of wounds upon their bodies, and demanded by signs the of them; they answered me in the same way, that there came people from the other islands in the neighborhood who endeavored to make prisoners of them, and they defended themselves. I thought then, and still believe, that these were from the continent. It appears to me, that the people are ingenious, and would be good servants and I am of opinion that they would very readily become Christians, as they appear to have no religion. They very quickly learn such words as are spoken to them. If it please our Lord, I intend at my return to carry home six of them to your Highnesses, that they may learn our language. I saw no beasts in the island, nor any sort of animals except parrots." These are the words of the Admiral.

Saturday, 13 October. "At daybreak great multitudes of men came to the shore, all young and of fine shapes, very handsome; their hair not curled but straight and coarse like horse-hair, and all with foreheads and heads much broader than any people I had hitherto seen; their eyes were large and very beautiful; they were not black, but the color of the inhabitants of the Canaries, which is a very natural circumstance, they being in the same latitude with the island of Ferro in the Canaries. They were straight-limbed without exception, and not with prominent bellies but handsomely shaped. They came to the ship in canoes, made of a single trunk of a tree, wrought in a wonderful manner considering the country; some of them large enough to contain forty or forty-five men, others of different sizes down to those fitted to hold but a single person. They rowed with an oar like a baker's peel, and wonderfully swift. If they happen to upset, they all jump into the sea, and swim

till they have righted their canoe and emptied it with the calabashes they carry with them. They came loaded with balls of cotton, parrots, javelins, and other things too numerous to mention; these they exchanged for whatever we chose to give them. I was very attentive to them, and strove to learn if they had any gold. Seeing some of them with little bits of this metal hanging at their noses, I gathered from them by signs that by going southward or steering round the island in that direction, there would be found a king who possessed large vessels of gold, and in great quantities. I endeavored to procure them to lead the way thither, but found they were unacquainted with the route. I determined to stay here till the evening of the next day, and then sail for the southwest; for according to what I could learn from them, there was land at the south as well as at the southwest and northwest and those from the northwest came many times and fought with them and proceeded on to the southwest in search of gold and precious stones. This is a large and level island, with trees extremely flourishing, and streams of water; there is a large lake in the middle of the island, but no mountains: the whole is completely covered with verdure and delightful to behold. The natives are an inoffensive people, and so desirous to possess any thing they saw with us, that they kept swimming off to the ships with whatever they could find, and readily bartered for any article we saw fit to give them in return, even such as broken platters and fragments of glass. I saw in this manner sixteen balls of cotton thread which weighed above twenty-five pounds, given for three Portuguese ceutis. This traffic I forbade, and suffered no one to take their cotton from them, unless I should order it to be procured for your Highnesses, if proper quantities could be met with. It grows in this island, but from my short stay here I could not satisfy myself fully concerning it; the gold, also, which they wear in their noses, is found here, but not to lose time, I am determined to proceed onward and ascertain whether I can reach Cipango. At night they all went on shore with their canoes.

Sunday, 14 October. In the morning, I ordered the boats to be got ready, and coasted along the island toward the north- northeast to examine that part of it, we having landed first at the eastern part. Presently we discovered two or three villages, and the people all came down to the shore, calling out to us, and giving thanks to God. Some brought us water, and others victuals: others seeing that I was not disposed to land, plunged into the sea and swam out to us, and we perceived that they interrogated us if we had come from heaven. An old man came on board my boat; the others, both men and women cried with loud voices--"Come and see the men who have come from heavens. Bring them victuals and drink." There came many of both sexes, every one bringing something, giving thanks to God, prostrating themselves on the earth, and lifting up their hands to heaven. They called out to us loudly to come to land, but I was apprehensive on account of a reef of rocks, which surrounds the whole island, although within there is depth of water and room sufficient for all the ships of Christendom, with a very narrow entrance. There are some shoals withinside, but the water is as smooth as a pond. It was to view these parts that I set out in the morning, for I wished to give a complete relation to your Highnesses, as also to find where a fort might be built. I discovered a tongue of land which appeared like an island though it was not, but might be cut through and made so in two days; it contained six houses. I do not, however, see the necessity of fortifying the place, as the people here are simple in war-like matters, as your Highnesses will see by those seven which I have ordered to be taken and carried to Spain in order to learn our language and return, unless your Highnesses should choose to have them all transported to Castile, or held captive in the

island. I could conquer the whole of them with fifty men, and govern them as I pleased. Near the islet I have mentioned were groves of trees, the most beautiful I have ever seen, with their foliage as verdant as we see in Castile in April and May. There were also many streams. After having taken a survey of these parts, I returned to the ship, and setting sail, discovered such a number of islands that I knew not which first to visit; the natives whom I had taken on board informed me by signs that there were so many of them that they could not be numbered; they repeated the names of more than a hundred. I determined to steer for the largest, which is about five leagues from San Salvador; the others were some at a greater, and some at a less distance from that island. They are all very level, without mountains, exceedingly fertile and populous, the inhabitants living at war with one another, although a simple race, and with delicate bodies.

15 October. Stood off and on during the night, determining not to come to anchor till morning, fearing to meet with shoals; continued our course in the morning; and as the island was found to be six or seven leagues distant, and the tide was against us, it was noon when we arrived there. I found that part of it towards San Salvador extending from north to south five leagues, and the other side which we coasted along, ran from east to west more than ten leagues. From this island espying a still larger one to the west, I set sail in that direction and kept on till night without reaching the western extremity of the island, where I gave it the name of Santa Maria de la Concepcion. About sunset we anchored near the cape which terminates the island towards the west to enquire for gold, for the natives we had taken from San Salvador told me that the people here wore golden bracelets upon their arms and legs. I believed pretty confidently that they had invented this story in order to find means to escape from us, still I determined to pass none of these islands without taking possession, because being once taken, it would answer for all times. We anchored and remained till Tuesday, when at daybreak I went ashore with the boats armed. The people we found naked like those of San Salvador, and of the same disposition. They suffered us to traverse the island, and gave us what we asked of them. As the wind blew southeast upon the shore where the vessels lay, I determined not to remain, and set out for the ship. A large canoe being near the caravel Nina, one of the San Salvador natives leaped overboard and swam to her; (another had made his escape the night before,) the canoe being reached by the fugitive, the natives rowed for the land too swiftly to be overtaken; having landed, some of my men went ashore in pursuit of them, when they abandoned the canoe and fled with precipitation; the canoe which they had left was brought on board the Nina, where from another quarter had arrived a small canoe with a single man, who came to barter some cotton; some of the sailors finding him unwilling to go on board the vessel, jumped into the sea and took him. I was upon the quarter deck of my ship, and seeing the whole, sent for him, and gave him a red cap, put some glass beads upon his arms, and two hawk's bells upon his ears. I then ordered his canoe to be returned to him, and despatched him back to land.

I now set sail for the other large island to the west and gave orders for the canoe which the Nina had in tow to be set adrift. I had refused to receive the cotton from the native whom I sent on shore, although he pressed it upon me. I looked out after him and saw upon his landing that the others all ran to meet him with much wonder. It appeared to them that we were honest people, and that the man who had escaped from us had done us some injury, for which we kept him in custody. It was in order to favor this notion that I ordered the canoe to

be set adrift, and gave the man the presents above mentioned, that when your Highnesses send another expedition to these parts it may meet with a friendly reception. All I gave the man was not worth four maravedis. We set sail about ten o'clock, with the wind southeast and stood southerly for the island I mentioned above, which is a very large one, and where according to the account of the natives on board, there is much gold, the inhabitants wearing it in bracelets upon their arms, legs, and necks, as well as in their ears and at their noses. This island is nine leagues distant from Santa Maria in a westerly direction. This part of it extends from northwest, to southeast and appears to be twenty-eight leagues long, very level, without any mountains, like San Salvador and Santa Maria, having a good shore and not rocky, except a few ledges under water, which renders it necessary to anchor at some distance, although the water is very clear, and the bottom may be seen. Two shots of a lombarda from the land, the water is so deep that it cannot be sounded; this is the case in all these islands. They are all extremely verdant and fertile, with the air agreeable, and probably contain many things of which I am ignorant, not inclining to stay here, but visit other islands in search of gold. And considering the indications of it among the natives who wear it upon their arms and legs, and having ascertained that it is the true metal by showing them some pieces of it which I have with me, I cannot fail, with the help of our Lord, to find the place which produces it.

Being at sea, about midway between Santa Maria and the large island, which I name Fernandina, we met a man in a canoe going from Santa Maria to Fernandina; he had with him a piece of the bread which the natives make, as big as one's fist, a calabash of water, a quantity of reddish earth, pulverized and afterwards kneaded up, and some dried leaves which are in high value among them, for a quantity of it was brought to me at San Salvador; he had besides a little basket made after their fashion, containing some glass beads, and two blancas by all which I knew he had come from San Salvador, and had passed from thence to Santa Maria. He came to the ship and I caused him to be taken on board, as he requested it; we took his canoe also on board and took care of his things. I ordered him to be presented with bread and honey, and drink, and shall carry him to Fernandina and give him his property, that he may carry a good report of us, so that if it please our Lord when your Highnesses shall send again to these regions, those who arrive here may receive honor, and procure what the natives may be found to possess.

Tuesday, 16 October. Set sail from Santa Maria about noon, for Fernandina which appeared very large in the west; sailed all the day with calms, and could not arrive soon enough to view the shore and select a good anchorage, for great care must be taken in this particular, lest the anchors be lost. Beat up and down all night, and in the morning arrived at a village and anchored. This was the place to which the man whom we had picked up at sea had gone, when we set him on shore. He had given such a favorable account of us, that all night there were great numbers of canoes coming off to us, who brought us water and other things. I ordered each man to be presented with something, as strings of ten or a dozen glass beads apiece, and thongs of leather, all which they estimated highly; those which came on board I directed should be fed with molasses. At three o'clock, I sent the boat on shore for water; the natives with great good will directed the men where to find it, assisted them in carrying the casks full of it to the boat, and seemed to take great pleasure in serving us. This is a very large island, and I have resolved to coast it about, for as I understand, in, or near

the island, there is a mine of gold. It is eight leagues west of Santa Maria, and the cape where we have arrived, and all this coast extends from north-northwest to south-southeast. I have seen twenty leagues of it, but not the end. Now, writing this, I set sail with a southerly wind to circumnavigate the island, and search till we can find Samoet, which is the island or city where the gold is, according to the account of those who come on board the ship, to which the relation of those of San Salvador and Santa Maria corresponds. These people are similar to those of the islands just mentioned, and have the same language and customs; with the exception that they appear somewhat more civilized, showing themselves more subtle in their dealings with us, bartering their cotton and other articles with more profit than the others had experienced. Here we saw cotton cloth, and perceived the people more decent, the women wearing a slight covering of cotton over the nudities. The island is verdant, level and fertile to a high degree; and I doubt not that grain is sowed and reaped the whole year round, as well as all other productions of the place. I saw many trees, very dissimilar to those of our country, and many of them had branches of different sorts upon the same trunk; and such a diversity was among them that it was the greatest wonder in the world to behold. Thus, for instance, one branch of a tree bore leaves like those of a cane, another branch of the same tree, leaves similar to those of the lentisk. In this manner a single tree bears five or six different kinds. Nor is this done by grafting, for that is a work of art, whereas these trees grow wild, and the natives take no care about them. They have no religion, and I believe that they would very readily become Christians, as they have a good understanding. Here the fish are so dissimilar to ours that it is wonderful. Some are shaped like dories, of the finest hues in the world, blue, yellow, red, and every other color, some variegated with a thousand different tints, so beautiful that no one on beholding them could fail to express the highest wonder and admiration. Here are also whales. Beasts, we saw none, nor any creatures on land save parrots and lizards, but a boy told me he saw a large snake. No sheep nor goats were seen, and although our stay here has been short, it being now noon, yet were there any, I could hardly have failed of seeing them. The circumnavigation of the island I shall describe afterward.

Wednesday, 17 October. At noon set sail from the village where we had anchored and watered. Kept on our course to sail round the island; the wind southwest and south. My intention was to follow the coast of the island to the southeast as it runs in that direction, being informed by the Indians I have on board, besides another whom I met with here, that in such a course I should meet with the island which they call Samoet, where gold is found. I was further informed by Martin Alonzo Pinzon, captain of the Pinta, on board of which I had sent three of the Indians, that he had been assured by one of them I might sail round the island much sooner by the northwest. Seeing that the wind would not enable me to proceed in the direction I first contemplated, and finding it favorable for the one thus recommended me, I steered to the northwest and arriving at the extremity of the island at two leagues' distance, I discovered a remarkable haven with two entrances, formed by an island at its mouth, both very narrow, the inside capacious enough for a hundred ships, were there sufficient depth of water. I thought it advisable to examine it, and therefore anchored outside, and went with the boats to sound it, but found the water shallow. As I had first imagined it to be the mouth of a river, I had directed the casks to be carried ashore for water, which being done we discovered eight or ten men who straightway came up to us, and directed us to a village in the neighborhood; I accordingly dispatched the crews thither

in quest of water, part of them armed, and the rest with the casks, and the place being at some distance it detained me here a couple of hours. In the meantime I strayed about among the groves, which present the most enchanting sight ever witnessed, a degree of verdure prevailing like that of May in Andalusia, the trees as different from those of our country as day is from night, and the same may be said of the fruit, the weeds, the stones and everything else. A few of the trees, however, seemed to be of a species similar to some that are to be found in Castile, though still with a great dissimilarity, but the others so unlike, that it is impossible to find any resemblance in them to those of our land. The natives we found like those already described, as to personal appearance and manners, and naked like the rest. Whatever they possessed, they bartered for what we chose to give them. I saw a boy of the crew purchasing javelins of them with bits of platters and broken glass. Those who went for water informed me that they had entered their houses and found them very clean and neat, with beds and coverings of cotton nets. Their houses are all built in the shape of tents, with very high chimneys. None of the villages which I saw contained more than twelve or fifteen of them. Here it was remarked that the married women wore cotton breeches, but the younger females were without them, except a few who were as old as eighteen years. Dogs were seen of a large and small size, and one of the men had hanging at his nose a piece of gold half as big as a castellailo, with letters upon it. I endeavored to purchase it of them in order to ascertain what sort of money it was but they refused to part with it. Having taken our water on board, I set sail and proceeded northwest till I had surveyed the coast to the point where it begins to run from east to west. Here the Indians gave me to understand that this island was smaller than that of Samoet, and that I had better return in order to reach it the sooner. The wind died away, and then sprang up from the west-northwest which was contrary to the course we were pursuing, we therefore hove about and steered various courses through the night from east to south standing off from the land, the weather being cloudy and thick. It rained violently from midnight till near day, and the sky still remains clouded; we remain off the southeast part of the island, where I expect to anchor and stay till the weather grows clear, when I shall steer for the other islands I am in quest of. Every day that I have been in these Indies it has rained more or less. I assure your Highnesses that these lands are the most fertile, temperate, level and beautiful countries in the world.

Thursday, 18 October. As soon as the sky grew clear, we set sail and went as far round the island as we could, anchoring when we found it inconvenient to proceed. I did not, however, land. In the morning set sail again.

Friday, 19 October. In the morning we got under weigh, and I ordered the Pinta to steer east and southeast and the Nina south- southeast; proceeding myself to the southeast the other vessels I directed to keep on the courses prescribed till noon, and then to rejoin me. Within three hours we descried an island to the east toward which we directed our course, and arrived all three, before noon, at the northern extremity, where a rocky islet and reef extend toward the North, with another between them and the main island. The Indians on board the ships called this island Saomete. I named it Isabela. It lies westerly from the island of Fernandina, and the coast extends from the islet twelve leagues, west, to a cape which I called Cabo Hermoso, it being a beautiful, round headland with a bold shore free from shoals. Part of the shore is rocky, but the rest of it, like most of the coast here, a sandy

beach. Here we anchored till morning. This island is the most beautiful that I have yet seen, the trees in great number, flourishing and lofty; the land is higher than the other islands, and exhibits an eminence, which though it cannot be called a mountain, yet adds a beauty to its appearance, and gives an indication of streams of water in the interior. From this part toward the northeast is an extensive bay with many large and thick groves. I wished to anchor there, and land, that I might examine those delightful regions, but found the coast shoal, without a possibility of casting anchor except at a distance from the shore. The wind being favorable, I came to the Cape, which I named Hermoso, where I anchored today. This is so beautiful a place, as well as the neighboring regions, that I know not in which course to proceed first; my eyes are never tired with viewing such delightful verdure, and of a species so new and dissimilar to that of our country, and I have no doubt there are trees and herbs here which would be of great value in Spain, as dyeing materials, medicine, spicery, etc., but I am mortified that I have no acquaintance with them. Upon our arrival here we experienced the most sweet and delightful odor from the flowers or trees of the island. Tomorrow morning before we depart, I intend to land and see what can be found in the neighborhood. Here is no village, but farther within the island is one, where our Indians inform us we shall find the king, and that he has much gold. I shall penetrate so far as to reach the village and see or speak with the king, who, as they tell us, governs all these islands, and goes dressed ..ith a great deal of gold about him. I do not, however, give much credit to these accounts, as I understand the natives but imperfectly, and perceive them to be so poor that a trifling quantity of gold appears to them a great amount. This island appears to me to be a separate one from that of Saomete, and I even think there may be others between them. I am not solicitous to examine particularly everything here, which indeed could not be done in fifty years, because my desire is to make all possible discoveries, and return to your Highnesses, if it please our Lord, in April. But in truth, should I meet with gold or spices in great quantity, I shall remain till I collect as much as possible, and for this purpose I am proceeding solely in quest of them.

Saturday, 20 October. At sunrise we weighed anchor, and stood to the northeast and east along the south side of this island, which I named Isabela, and the cape where we anchored, Cabo de la Laguna; in this direction I expected from the account of our Indians to find the capital and king of the island. I found the coast very shallow, and offering every obstacle to our navigation, and perceiving that our course this way must be very circuitous, I determined to return to the westward. The wind failed us, and we were unable to get near the shore before night; and as it is very dangerous anchoring here in the dark, when it is impossible to discern among so many shoals and reefs whether the ground be suitable, I stood off and on all night. The other vessels came to anchor, having reached the shore in season. As was customary among us, they made signals to me to stand in and anchor, but I determined to remain at sea.

Sunday, 21 October. At 10 o'clock, we arrived at a cape of the island, and anchored, the other vessels in company. After having dispatched a meal, I went ashore, and found no habitation save a single house, and that without an occupant; we had no doubt that the people had fled in terror at our approach, as the house was completely fu..ished. I suffered nothing to be touched, and went with my captains and some of the crew to view the country. This island even exceeds the others in beauty and fertility. Groves of lofty and

flourishing trees are abundant, as also large lakes, surrounded and overhung by the foliage, in a most enchanting manner. Everything looked as green as in April in Andalusia. The melody of the birds was so exquisite that one was never willing to part from the spot, and the flocks of parrots obscured the heavens. The diversity in the appearance of the feathered tribe from those of our country is extremely curious. A thousand different sorts of trees, with their fruit were to be met with, and of a wonderfully delicious odor. It was a great affliction to me to be ignorant of their natures, for I am very certain they are all valuable; specimens of them and of the plants I have preserved. Going round one of these lakes, I saw a snake, which we killed, and I have kept the skin for your Highnesses; upon being discovered he took to the water, whither we followed him, as it was not deep, and dispatched him with our lances; he was seven spans in length; I think there are many more such about here. I discovered also the aloe tree, and am determined to take on board the ship tomorrow, ten quintals of it, as I am told it is valuable. While we were in search of some good water, we came upon a village of the natives about half a league from the place where the ships lay; the inhabitants on discovering us abandoned their houses, and took to flight, carrying of their goods to the mountain. I ordered that nothing which they had left should be taken, not even the value of a pin. Presently we saw several of the natives advancing towards our party, and one of them came up to us, to whom we gave some hawk's bells and glass beads, with which he was delighted. We asked him in return, for water, and after I had gone on board the ship, the natives came down to the shore with their calabashes full, and showed great pleasure in presenting us with it. I ordered more glass beads to be given them, and they promised to return the next day. It is my wish to fill all the water casks of the ships at this place, which being executed, I shall depart immediately, if the weather serve, and sail round the island, till I succeed in meeting with the king, in order to see if I can acquire any of the gold, which I hear he possesses. Afterwards I shall set sail for another very large island which I believe to be Cipango, according to the indications I receive from the Indians on board. They call the Island Colba, and say there are many large ships, and sailors there. This other island they name Bosio, and inform me that it is very large; the others which lie in our course, I shall examine on the passage, and according as I find gold or spices in abundance, I shall determine what to do; at all events I am determined to proceed on to the continent, and visit the city of Guisay, where I shall deliver the letters of your Highnesses to the Great Can, and demand an answer, with which I shall return.

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